

our main competitors and trading partners—countries such as Germany, Japan, and Canada. We're tired of being second-class citizens in the industrial world of global competition.

Mr. President, I don't think any statement could have pulled together these themes better than Mr. Newby's. The theme of competition internationally, the theme of what religious and communities leaders have to say about this practice, and the theme of the actual heartbreaking stories of what happens to the people in these communities when their jobs are ripped away from them simply because they are trying to exercise their right to strike.

It is time that American workers have the same rights and protections that workers have in the industrialized countries that are our main international competitors and trading partners. American workers should not be second-class citizens in the industrial world of global competition.

The President's Executive order is only a small step in the right direction. We ought to provide these protections against permanent replacement workers for all Americans, but at a minimum, we should uphold President Clinton's action to provide these protections for those employed by Federal contractors.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. FEINGOLD. I yield.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to commend my friend and colleague from Wisconsin for an excellent presentation. This presentation was, I thought, one of the most thoughtful and comprehensive reviews of the significance of the Kassebaum amendment and what its implications would be in the real world.

We have heard a great deal of speeches about Executive orders, the power of the President, whether this Executive order was issued to benefit a special interest. But I think the Senator has in a very comprehensive and thoughtful way provided an insight about what is really before the Senate in terms of the people of his State. I just want to commend him and thank him for his thoughtfulness and for his insight in analyzing this issue and for sharing with the Senate a superb presentation on what is a very, very important issue.

When this amendment was initially proposed, it was really what I would call a seat-of-the-pants amendment. The President signed an Executive order, and the ink was not even dry when there was an amendment to try to undermine what the President was attempting to do.

I hope the American people have gained an insight into the human dimension of this debate. If they have, it is because of the presentation of the Senator from Wisconsin. I am very grateful to him for his presentation and, most importantly, I think our colleagues will be if they take the time to

read and study this superb speech. I thank the Senator.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would just like to thank the Senator from Massachusetts and say he has truly been an inspiration on this issue and during this debate. Not only has he spent a lot of time out here debating the amendment, trying to defeat it, but he has brought passion to the issue that it deserves.

It is an issue that should involve passion. It is an issue that should involve condemnation and that should bring forth the human element, which the Senator from Massachusetts has done so well.

I would just like to reiterate, this amendment is slowing down the process in the Senate. It is not helping us get our work done; it is hurting us getting our work done. We have no choice but to fight it because we believe it is off the point and it is fundamentally damaging to the very families that we have based our careers on and trying to fight for.

So it can be ended right away if this amendment is taken back. We can get back to the Department of Defense bill, but that is not the choice that the majority has made.

I am eager to work with the majority on a number of issues, including even some that are in the Republican contract—some. But when it comes to this kind of conduct suggesting that Federal dollars should be used to break unions and break the families that are part of them, we will fight and we will resist such a harsh verdict for the American people.

So, again, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his kind comments but, more importantly, for his strong leadership on this issue.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. DODD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). The Senator from Connecticut.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 988 AND H.R. 956

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk that are due to be read a second time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the first bill for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 988) to reform the Federal civil justice system.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on the bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XIV, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The clerk will now read the second bill for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I respectfully object to further proceedings on that bill at this time as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XIV, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCIS-SIONS ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. DODD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank you. Those are procedural matters we just dealt with in order to clean up some business on the floor.

Quickly, before my colleague from Wisconsin leaves the floor, let me join in the comments of my colleague from Massachusetts. I want to commend Senator FEINGOLD for a very, very thoughtful set of remarks regarding the cloture motion on the Kassebaum amendment. It is an historical perspective that is not something we do with great frequency around here, but it is always nice to have a sense of history as to why we are in this particular debate and what has happened over the last number of decades that brought us to this particular debate when it comes to the issue of permanent replacements for strikers.

I just think he has added immeasurably to the knowledge base of this discussion and debate, and I think if Members do read it, particularly those who may be unclear in their own minds about whether or not we are on the right track with insisting that this Executive order issued by the President be given a chance to proceed, they will be enriched as a result of reading his remarks. I commend him for them.

Mr. President, as well, I commend my colleague from Massachusetts who, once again, is taking a very strong leadership position on a matter that many of us care very, very strongly about, and I rise, as well, today in opposition to the motion to invoke cloture on the Kassebaum amendment.

Throughout much of the 20th century, economic growth broadly benefited Americans of all income levels. We grew together and an expanding economy meant better jobs for everyone.

I will point out, Mr. President, in reading some history of the early part of World War II the other evening, I was shocked—maybe we should not be if we read a little more history—but shocked to discover that in 1940 in this country, which is not that long ago—there are many people working today who were at work in 1940 in this country—one-half of all the adult males in the United States in 1940 had an annual income of \$1,000 a year; two-thirds of all working women outside the home had an annual income of \$1,000 a year; one-third of all the homes in this country roughly had no indoor plumbing to